

Introduced by Senator Vargas

January 12, 2012

Senate Resolution No. 22—Relative to the Calexico West Port of Entry.

1 WHEREAS, The Calexico West Port of Entry is located in
2 downtown Calexico and currently consists of approximately
3 102,040 square feet of improvements; and

4 WHEREAS, Federal agencies have considered the need to
5 renovate and expand this facility for many years, having evaluated
6 and planned to move portions of the border entry process
7 approximately three blocks west and expand its operation for
8 pedestrians, automobiles, and, to a lesser extent, some commercial
9 vehicles; and

10 WHEREAS, Planning began in 2005, and millions of dollars
11 have been spent planning the new facility. However, due to the
12 current fiscal situation facing the federal government, as well as
13 local governments nationwide and especially in California, public
14 financing sources are difficult to identify, and it appears that the
15 financing and construction of this much-needed project may be
16 delayed, not only this year, but perhaps for many years; and

17 WHEREAS, The delay in the construction creates national
18 security issues and long waiting times for travelers both entering
19 and exiting the United States to and from Mexico. The long waiting
20 times cause health and safety concerns for all travelers, especially
21 during the extreme heat of summer. The delay also exacerbates
22 environmental issues and economic inefficiencies from the use of
23 the existing facility, which is decades old. It is estimated that the
24 costs of the inefficiencies are well in excess of \$500,000,000 per
25 year to the region; and

1 WHEREAS, Imperial County and the region have extremely
2 high levels of unemployment, estimated to be at least 25 percent.
3 These communities are still affected by the losses caused by the
4 2010 Easter earthquake. The renovation project is estimated to
5 cost \$320,000,000 and take 24 months to complete. The project
6 will create approximately 6,000 jobs, mostly from regional sources;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Many federal agencies, including those within the
9 umbrella of the Department of Homeland Security, have procured
10 infrastructure and other capital improvements through the
11 utilization of private capital markets for financing and construction
12 activities. Discussions are currently being held to potentially
13 formulate a proposal of a joint venture with private parties to
14 finance, construct, and lease the proposed renovation and expansion
15 of the Calexico West Port of Entry. The arrangements are
16 contingent upon Congress providing guiding legislation to
17 implement the plan; and

18 WHEREAS, A private-public partnership is necessary to
19 renovate and expand the Calexico West Port of Entry in a more
20 timely manner, create jobs in Imperial County and the surrounding
21 region, and provide for the economic and environmental benefits
22 of the proposed project; now, therefore, be it

23 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California*, That the Senate
24 declares its support for a private-public partnership to renovate
25 and expand the Calexico West Port of Entry; and be it further

26 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
27 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.